



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Alpine Pacific Utilities Hydro, LLC

Project No. 14751-002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING WITH THE COMMISSION,
SOLICITING MOTIONS TO INTERVENE AND PROTESTS, READY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, INTENT TO WAIVE SCOPING, SOLICITING
COMMENTS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND
PRESCRIPTIONS

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- a. Type of Application: Original Minor License
- b. Project No.: 14751-002
- c. Date filed: February 1, 2017
- d. Applicant: Alpine Pacific Utilities Hydro, LLC
- e. Name of Project: Fresno Dam Site Water Power Project
- f. Location: On the Milk River in Hill County, Montana near the town of Kremlin at the existing Bureau of Reclamation Fresno Dam.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 USC 791 (a) - 825(r).
- h. Applicant Contact: Mr. Justin Ahmann, Alpine Pacific Utilities Hydro, LLC, 75 Somers Road, Somers, Montana 59932, (406) 755-1333.
- i. FERC Contact: John Matkowski, (202) 502-8576 or john.matkowski@ferc.gov.
- j. Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, terms and conditions, recommendations, and prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and protests, comments, terms and conditions, recommendations, and prescriptions using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14751-002.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted for filing and is now ready for environmental analysis.

l. The proposed project would use the existing Fresno Dam, intake with trashrack, and outlet structure owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation and consist of the following new facilities: (1) two penstock adapters consisting of (i) a 72-inch diameter circular section transitioning to (ii) a 72-inch-high by 60-inch wide rectangular section that connects the existing outlet works to (2) a series of rectangular concrete adapter boxes that apportion flow into either the proposed turbines or to the existing gate house; (3) an underground powerhouse containing one 875-kilowatt (kW) and one 625-kW Natel Energy turbine with a total rated capacity of 1.5 megawatts; (4) two 5-foot-wide by 6-foot-high, 85-foot-long concrete tailraces ; (5) a 400-square-foot switchyard; (6) an approximately 3.35-mile-long, 12.74-kilovolt underground transmission line; and (7) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an average annual generation of 6,251 megawatt-hours.

m. Due to the applicant's close coordination with state and federal agencies during the preparation of the application and the lack of any study requests submitted during pre-filing consultation and in response to the Commission's tendering notice, we intend to waive scoping. Based on a review of the application, resource agency consultation letters, and comments filed to date, Commission staff intends to prepare a single environmental assessment (EA). The issues that need to be addressed in the EA have been adequately identified during the pre-filing period, which included a public meeting

and site visit, and no new issues are likely to be identified through additional scoping. The EA will assess the potential effects of project construction and operation on geology and soils, aquatic, terrestrial, threatened and endangered species, recreation and land use, aesthetic, and cultural and historic resources.

n. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. Any qualified applicant desiring to file a competing application must submit to the Commission, on or before the specified intervention deadline date, a competing development application, or a notice of intent to file such an application. Submission of a timely notice of intent allows an interested person to file the competing development application no later than 120 days after the specified intervention deadline date. Applications for preliminary permits will not be accepted in response to this notice.

A notice of intent must specify the exact name, business address, and telephone number of the prospective applicant, and must include an unequivocal statement of intent to submit a development application. A notice of intent must be served on the applicant(s) named in this public notice.

Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, and .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title PROTEST, MOTION TO INTERVENE, NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION, COMPETING APPLICATION, COMMENTS, REPLY COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, or PRESCRIPTIONS; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18

CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

p. A license applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

q. Procedural schedule: We intend to accept the consultation that has occurred on this project during the pre-filing period as satisfying our requirements for the standard 3-stage consultation process under 18 CFR 4.38 and for National Environmental Policy Act scoping and the application will be processed according to the following procedural schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

<u>MILESTONE</u>	<u>TARGET DATE</u>
Comments, recommendations, and terms and conditions due	60 days from issuance of this notice
Reply comments due	105 days from issuance of this notice
Notice of the availability of the EA	August 2018

DATED: December 21, 2017

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-28093 Filed: 12/27/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/28/2017]